



WINTER 2003 - 2004

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# Louisiana COASTLINES

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LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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## "Disappearing Wetlands" video new and topical



It's new, newsworthy, educational, and soon to be broadcast in your area. *Disappearing Wetlands of Louisiana*, a Turner South film production is set to be shown throughout the state on LBP, on Tuesday, March 2 at 9 p.m. The 30-minute documentary takes a close-up view of coastal Louisiana and the people working to save a crippled yet valuable ecosystem.

The Louisiana Public Broadcast (LPB) television stations are:

WLPB-TV 27 in Baton Rouge

KLTM-TV 13 in Monroe

KLTL-TV 18 in Lake Charles

KLPB-TV 24 in Lafayette

KLTS-TV 24 in Shreveport

KLPA-TV 25 in Alexandria

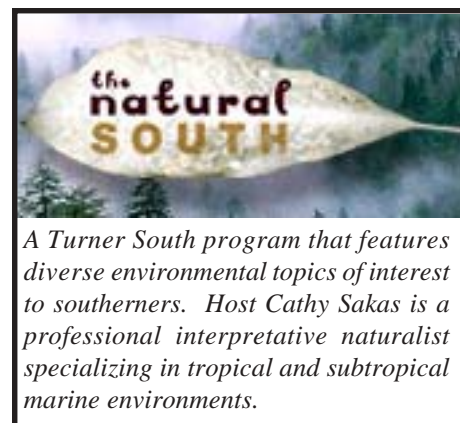
WLAE-TV 32 in New Orleans

According to the state Department of Natural Resources' Public Information Director Phyllis Darensbourg the film was produced late last year and has aired on the network's The Natural South show. DNR was contacted by a Georgia production company last summer, and agreed to collaborate with the production of the show. "Atlanta viewers saw the documentary in

November. Now with the support of the Public Broadcast System viewing of the film has been made possible in the state," she said. Seven television stations will broadcast the show but outreach efforts will go much further than that, she explained.

Superintendents of the public schools across the state will be mailed a copy of the video and asked to share it with science teachers and library resource staff. Teachers can use the video in the classroom as a way of making this environmental issue both topical and real for the students.

The public information office will be responsible for distributing the video. To request a copy, contact 225/342-0556 or e-mail inquiries to [info@dnr.state.la.us](mailto:info@dnr.state.la.us).



A Turner South program that features diverse environmental topics of interest to southerners. Host Cathy Sakas is a professional interpretative naturalist specializing in tropical and subtropical marine environments.

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# CUP Joint Application Topic of Public Meetings

Public awareness and participation in protecting the state's coastal wetlands is an important endeavor. For decades now, many diverse interest groups have come together to deal with the growing pains of regulation, conservation, and other challenges that have been presented along the way.

Since the Breaux Act, Louisiana has developed a Coastal Wetlands Conservation Plan with the goal of "no net" loss of coastal wetlands from developmental activities. Permitting, monitoring and enforce-

ing coastal use activities within the coastal zone lies with the Coastal Management division of the Department of Natural Resources.

The department has spent considerable time and effort in streamlining the process for coastal permitting. A series of public meetings is planned to discuss the "no net" loss efforts, the new joint permit application form, online services, and new procedures instituted by coastal management officials. The outreach meetings are hosted by local municipalities.

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## New Joint Permit Application Form -- State and U.S. Army Corp of Engineers -- Community Outreach Meetings

### January 29, 2004

6:00 p.m.

National Wetlands Research Center  
700 Cajundome Blvd.  
Main Conference Room  
Lafayette, Louisiana

### February 2, 2004

6:00 p.m.

Government Tower Building  
8026 Main Street, 2nd Floor  
Houma, Louisiana  
(In conjunction with the regularly scheduled Coastal Zone Management Meeting)

### February 4, 2004

6:00 p.m.

St. Tammany Government Building  
Parish Council Chambers  
21490 Koop Drive  
Mandeville, Louisiana



### February 5, 2004

6:00 p.m.

McNeese State University  
Gayle Hall Auditorium  
4380 Ryan Street  
Lake Charles, Louisiana

### February 16, 2004

6:30 p.m.

Jefferson Parish West Bank Regional Library  
2751 Manhattan Blvd.  
Harvey, Louisiana

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# West Bay Sediment Diversion Project

## CWPPRA Project Profile

**Location:** Plaquemines Parish at the bank of the Mississippi River at Mile 4.7 above Head of Passes, approx. 6 miles from Venice, LA

**Cost:** \$22.2 million with 85% federal, 15% state funding, first phase

**Date:** Start: Sept. 2003 Complete: Dec. 2003

**Type:** Sediment Diversion Project. A channel approx. 25 ft. deep was designed and constructed to divert sediment laden water from the Mississippi River into a large shallow bay adjacent to the river. Sediment is expected to come out of suspension in the shallow water of the receiving area, creating marsh which will vegetate naturally.

**Sponsors:** DNR and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

**Summary:** This project is expected to create approx. 10,000 acres of marsh over its 20-year life. In doing so, sediment that otherwise would have been lost over the continental shelf will be retained within the lower delta.

Phase 1 construction, a 20,000 cubic ft. per sec. (cfs) diversion, was completed in Dec. 2003. Phase 2 construction, enlargement to a 50,000 cfs diversion, is expected within 2 years. A public dedication of this Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) project is expected in April 2004.



DNR Project Manager John Hodnett supervised construction work and operations at the site. He has provided two aerial photos as shown here. The upper photo shows the dredge "California" cutting through the river bank to create the diversion channel. The lower photo shows a portion of the marsh created with the spoil excavated from the channel, while the dredge can be seen working in the background.



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# Landowners offered assistance in Wetlands Program

By: Ed Britton  
DNR Coastal Resources Scientist

Landowners with “pumped-off” agricultural land in coastal Louisiana may have the opportunity to play a direct role in the restoration of the state’s coastal wetlands. Louisiana is funding a Coastal Wetland Reserve Program (CWRP), modeled after the successful USDA Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The purpose of the state-funded program is to bring back coastal wetlands on marginal croplands and pastures.

Land that can be reconnected to coastal waters can be voluntarily put into a conservation easement where further development and active farming of the land will be discontinued. Landowners are paid the fair agricultural market value of the land upon establishment of a permanent conservation easement. For 30-year easements, landowners are paid 75 percent of the fair agricultural market value. The landowner still retains rights for certain uses of the land, such as fishing, hunting, trapping, and alligator harvest, and keeps fee title and control of access to the property.

An example of a recent successful CWRP project involved the restoration of over 600 acres of coastal marsh in Vermilion Parish. After reestablishing the water exchange

with nearby coastal waters, the native marsh plant community is returning, thus restoring habitat for coastal fish and wildlife that once thrived there.

Louisiana’s CWRP was developed as an element of the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation Plan, in which the state has pledged no net loss of coastal wetlands due to development. Louisiana has committed to make available \$200,000

or more each year in order to carry out the CWRP portion of the Conservation Plan. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) hopes to see at least one new CWRP project each year that can potentially restore hundreds of acres of coastal

wetlands and their associated functions and values.

The process of reviewing applications for this year’s program is underway. Landowners who may be interested in participating in Louisiana’s CWRP should begin with two basic steps toward eligibility. 1. Call or visit your nearest NRCS office. 2. Submit an application for the federal Wetland Reserve Program.

For more information, please call Jim Holcombe of the DNR Coastal Management Division at 225/342-7940 or NRCS Program Analyst Mike Nichols at 318/473-7803.



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# Underwater Obstructions Notice and Coordinates

In accordance with the provisions of R.S. 56:700.1 et. seq., notice is given that 28 claims in the amount of \$103,728.68 were received for payment during the period October 1, 2003 - December 31, 2003. There were 26 claims paid and 2 claims denied.

Loran Coordinates of reported underwater obstructions are:

27695	46888	ST MARY
27954	46849	TERREBONNE
28015	46864	TERREBONNE

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates of reported underwater obstructions are:

29 01.877	90 26.920	LAFOURCHE
29 05.560	90 47.868	TERREBONNE
29 09.930	90 03.980	JEFFERSON
29 17.676	89 52.545	JEFFERSON
29 18.360	89 35.303	PLAQUEMINES
29 23.112	90 01.330	LAFOURCHE
29 24.494	90 02.438	JEFFERSON
29 25.365	90 33.049	TERREBONNE
29 28.378	90 07.724	LAFOURCHE
29 28.920	90 02.470	JEFFERSON
29 30.320	92 20.920	VERMILION
29 37.279	90 07.751	JEFFERSON
29 37.498	90 05.231	JEFFERSON
29 40.235	89 53.864	PLAQUEMINES
29 41.720	90 04.190	JEFFERSON
29 47.030	89 51.360	PLAQUEMINES
29 47.145	92 07.481	VERMILION
29 49.534	91 54.292	VERMILION
29 50.016	89 35.186	ST BERNARD
29 50.275	89 24.416	ST BERNARD
29 51.515	90 28.276	ST CHARLES
29 56.486	89 50.504	ST BERNARD
30 07.188	89 13.086	ST BERNARD
30 09.599	89 46.801	ST TAMMANY

A list of claimants and amounts paid can be obtained from Verlie Wims, Administrator, Fishermen's Gear Compensation Fund, P.O. Box 44277, Baton Rouge, LA 70804 or you can call 225/342-0122.

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Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 44487, Baton Rouge, LA  
70804-4487

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## Calling All Students



The Louisiana Environmental Education Commission and Alcoa are sponsoring the **Second Annual Environmental Awareness Art & Language Art Contest**. The theme for this year's contest is **Louisiana: Trees of the Forestland**. Contestants will enter in one of three age categories; 5-9, 10-13, or 14-18. All entries must be postmarked by Friday, March 26, 2004. For entry forms call, EEC Office toll-free 877/523-6833.

## Coastlines by e-mail



Coastlines is produced quarterly by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources' Coastal Management Division with primary funding from NOAA. The department will begin an e-mail format of the newsletter this spring. Coastlines will not be available by mail but can be downloaded from the web at **[www.dnr.state.la.us](http://www.dnr.state.la.us)**. To become an E-subscriber, simply send an e-mail addressed to **[info@dnr.state.la.us](mailto:info@dnr.state.la.us)**. In the message box type your full name and telephone number and send.